

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: NOON PRESS BRIEFING - SECRETARY'S TRAVEL PLANS

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM NOON BRIEFING, JANUARY 23, IN
RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S TRAVEL TO
LATIN AMERICA:

Q. THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY IS SAYING THE SECRETARY WILL BE
THERE FROM THE 16TH TO THE 19TH OF FEBRUARY?

A: THE SECRETARY, AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, IS PLANNING AND IS
LOOKING FORWARD TO VISITING LATIN AMERICA. THE QUESTION OF
THE SPECIFIC DATES ARE STILL TRYING TO BE WORKED OUT WITH
THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED. AND WHAT WE WANT TO DO
IS THEN MAKE ONE ANNOUNCEMENT AND LET THEM MAKE THEIR
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

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Q: SOME OF THEM HAVE ALREADY MADE THEIR OFFICIAL ANNOUNCE-

MENTS?

A: SOME OF THEM HAVE. AND SOMETIMES IT'S SOURCES WITHIN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, ETC., BUT THE SECRETARY -- THERE ARE STILL SOME LOOSE ENDS TO TIE UP HERE, AND THEN WE WILL GIVE IT TO YOU.

Q: HOW MANY COUNTRIES ARE INVOLVED?

A: I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THE PLACES YET THAT HE IS GOING TO.

Q: AT LEAST TWO FOREIGN MINISTERIES HAVE ANNOUNCED FORMALLY ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO THAT THE SECRETARY WAS GOING TO BE THERE IN FEBRUARY. I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR RETICENCE NOT TO AT LEAST CONFIRM THAT FOR THOSE COUNTRIES?

A: WELL, THE SECRETARY WOULD PREFER TO BE ABLE TO GIVE HIS ITINERARY, THE EXACT DATES, SO THAT WHEN ALL THE EXACT DATES ARE SET.

Q: WHAT TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN LEFT OUT SO FAR OR HAVEN'T GIVEN THE DATES THEMSELVES?

A: WELL, FORGIVE ME, I JUST DON'T WANT TO GO INTO THE NAMES OF THE GOVERNMENTS AT THIS TIME.(

1: LEAVING ASIDE THE DATES AND THE ITINERARY, IS IT CORRECT THAT THE SECRETARY IS GOING TO LATIN AMERICA SOMETIME IN THE SECOND HALF OF FEBRUARY?

A: THE SECRETARY IS LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING TO LATIN AMERICA, PROBABLY IN FEBRUARY. I JUST CAN'T GIVE YOU THE EXACT DATES YET.

Q: ISN'T IT A FACT, THOUGH, THAT HE SECRETARY IS ALSO CONTEMPLATING A MIDDLE EAST VENTURE AND THAT THAT COULD BLOW THE LATIN AMERICAN TRIP OUT OF THE WATER AT THIS STAGE?

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A: THE SECRETARY, AS WE SAID, HE ANNOUNCED, WHAT? TWO DAYS AGO I THINK, THAT HE WILL BE GOING TO THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS. AND HERE AGAIN HE HASN'T TIED THE DATES ON THAT TRIP DOWN. SO OBVIOUSLY THERE WILL HAVE TO BE, IF THE MIDDLE EAST TRIP OCCURS AROUND THE TIME OF THE PROJECTED LATIN AMERICAN TRIP, OBVIOUSLY, THE DATES WILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT TO THE SATISFACTION OF ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED.

Q: DOES ONE TRIP DEPEND ON THE OTHER THOW6H?

A: IN WHAT SENSE TO YOU MEAN?

Q: WELL, IF HE GOES TO THE MIDDLE EAST, DOES THAT MAKE HIS

GOING TO LATIN AMERICA LESS DEFINITE?

A: AS FAR AS I KNOW, HE DEFINITELY PLANS TO VISIT LATIN AMERICA. I DON'T THINK IT'S A QUESTION IF HE MAKES THE MIDDLE EAST TRIP THAT THEN HE WOULD BE LESS DEFINITE ABOUT GOING TO LATIN AMERICA IN FEBRUARY.

Q: THE TIMING MIGHT BE LESS DEFINITE.

A: IT'S A QUESTION OF TRYING TO WORK OUT BOTH SETS OF DATES. I MEAN I WISH YOU WOULD JUST LET ME LEAVE IT THERE FOR NOW. I JUST CAN'T GET ANY MORE SPECIFIC. INGERSOLL

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